

What is claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing carbon nanotubes and/or fullerenes comprising the steps of:

reducing the pressure inside a system to 1.3 Pa or lower;

supplying a carboniferous liquid state material to raise the pressure inside the system to at least 1.3 kPa to 93.3 kPa, generating arc discharges;

supplying the carboniferous liquid state material in discharge plasma created by the arc discharges; and

disintegrating or exciting the carboniferous liquid state material to produce the carbon nanotubes and/or the fullerenes.

2. A method of manufacturing carbon nanotubes and/or fullerenes according to Claim 1, wherein the carboniferous liquid state material is an organic solvent.

3. A method of manufacturing carbon nanotubes and/or fullerenes according to Claim 1, wherein the carboniferous liquid state material is any of a petroleum liquid, mineral oil, and fatty acid ester.

4. An apparatus that manufactures carbon nanotubes and/or fullerenes, comprising:

at least a pair of electrodes that generate arc discharges into a vacuum chamber to create discharge plasma;

a gas supply unit that supplies a carrier gas into the vacuum chamber; and

a raw material supply unit that supplies a carboniferous liquid state material in the discharge plasma through an introduction tube.

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